

## OPTIMISM.

I'm no reformer, for I see more light than darkness in the world. Mine eyes are quick to catch the first dim radiance of the dawn, And slow to note the cloud that threatens storm. The fragrance and beauty of the rose Delight me so, slight thought I give the thorn; And the sweet music of the lark's clear song Stays longer with me than the night-hawk's cry, And e'en in this great throe of pain called life, I find a rapture linked with each despair Well worth the price of anguish. I detect more good than evil in humanity. Love lights more fires than hate extinguishes. And men grow better as the world grows old.—*Ella Wheeler Wilcox.*

## SHADOW AND LIGHT."

Press Comment Upon Judge M. W. Gibbs Masterly Autobiography of Race History Revealed.

A MERITORIOUS WORK—Judge Gibbs' book, "Shadow and Light," is one of the best books that has been placed on the market for years, bar none. For grace and ease of diction, bearing the reader right on as glides the canoe on smooth waters, neither halting nor hesitating when they become troubled or boisterous. Unflagging interest attends each page.

First, the writer has something to tell that people want to hear. It deals with a period of most vital interest in the history of our country and people.

It is told in a courageous and masterful manner, never obtrusive, for although strong, classical without the thought or study of the author. It is more concise and laconic than plain, ordinary language ever is, containing much in little.

Running all through the pages are bits of instruction, which, although addressed to the colored race, may be of benefit to all. There are here and there bits of philosophy that not only vie with, but outstrip Hugo's best efforts.

Simply as history, truthful, fair and unprejudiced, the work is worth many times its price.

Containing all these and many more praiseworthy qualities, the work must meet with a large sale.—*Little Rock Advertiser.*

As a globe trotter—almost the Ulysses of the Negro race. The book is unpretentious, relating personal experiences in Philadelphia British Columbia, Florida, California, England, Paris, Arabia, Arkansas and Madagascar. Narrated with a fidelity and picturesqueness which makes it interesting from start to finish. Valuable in an educational sense, eminent men with whom the author has been associated, and historical events in which he has taken part. A creditable contribution to current literature.—*Pine Bluff Daily Commercial.*

The book will strongly appeal to all interested in the history and welfare of the race in America.—*Washington Post Washington, D. C.*

We are particularly glad to welcome this most entertaining volume of history, travel and observation, for Judge Gibbs has written it in a delightfully refreshing vein that will attract the attention and hold it to the end. It is an entrancing as any book of travel ever written.—*Ark. Democrat.*

I am a little pessimistic as to Negro authors and books. But the way you treat an old subject is fascinating. I have spoken of it to my congregation.—*Rev. Dr. L. S. Flagg, Washington, D. C.*

Judge Gibbs, the leading colored citizen, is an entertaining writer, and a man of varied experience. The volume is embellished with many portraits of distinguished individuals who are subjects of the author's fruitful pen. There is not a dull page in the book.—*Arkansas Gazette.*

A story ostensibly of himself, but that involves a large number of the leading

men and events of the nation for many years past. It is history and biography intertwined and reads like a romance.—*Southwestern Christian Advocate, New Orleans, La.*

It is an exceedingly entertaining and thrilling narrative of the trials and struggles of the colored people before and since emancipation, and record of heroic deeds of many of the grand men and women who were pioneers in the work of freeing, educating and elevating the race. It should be read by rising and future generations.—*Ex-Gov. P. B. S. Pinchback, New Orleans, La.*

The most captivating in manner and thrilling in intensity. It is an epitome of history and travel that informs and delights.—*Colored American, Washington, D. C.*

For sale by John H. Wills, 506 Eleventh street, N. W. Price \$1.25.

Those who would be leaders of the race could do nothing better than to read and take inspiration from what can be found in "Shadow and Light."—*Hon. James Lewis, New Orleans, La.*

There are several little popcorn editors, who are trying to nag at Editor Cooper, of The Colored American. These little fellows remind us of a fly that tried to straighten an elephant's snout, because he kept wagging his tail. Go on, Brother Cooper, the Afro-American press of the United States endorses you. Your paper is worth more to the race, than fifty million of the other fellows.—*Western World, Oklahoma City.*

Editor E. E. Cooper, of the Washington (District of Columbia) Colored American, whose cut appears in this issue of the Times-Speaker, is a man that the Speaker delights to do honor. He is one of the race's most trusty leaders, and as a newspaper man and all around hustler, perhaps he stands without a peer among Afro-American journalists. He is a man whose name is bound to live in after years as a landmark in Negro journalism.—*Times-Speaker, Denver, Colo.*

## ADORNMENT FOR HOME.

Catchall, S. C., July 8.—I congratulate you, Mr. Editor, upon the addition of new life to The Colored American. Every family should have their home adorned with the portrait of the two great men who figured in your supplement.—*Booker T. Washington and Rev. W. L. Taylor.*

J. A. ROACH.

## A GRAND RACE ADVOCATE.

Editor Colored American: I have read a great number of Negro papers, but the Colored American is the best Negro journal that I have ever seen. It is just what every Negro family should have in their home. I speak proudly of this paper and I wish that I had the opportunity of reading it oftener than I do. I have been reading your paper for several years and am compelled to tell you it is one of the grandest papers that has been published by a Negro journalist. Your paper has been sent to me for several years by my cousin, Prof. W. H. Richards, and I appreciate the favor very highly. I would feel proud if the Negroes in the State of Tennessee could publish a journal on the same broad lines. I trust the Colored American will never die. N. J. L.

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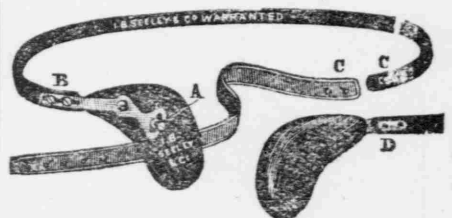
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